



August 18, 2015

Chairman Tom Wheeler  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**In the Matter of:**            **Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors;  
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45.**

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

On behalf of WiscNet, Wisconsin's Research and Education Network, I want to strongly state my support for Robert Bocher to serve as the library representative on the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Board of Directors. I have known Bob for over fifteen years and his commitment to libraries and networking will make him an ideal member of the USAC board.

American Library Association's (ALA) letter nominating Bob articulates his many qualifications, including acknowledgment by the library community nationwide of his knowledge of the E-rate program. And I know from direct experience that Bob is highly regarded by our state's library and school communities for the E-rate support he provides to them.

From the WiscNet perspective Bob has always been a proactive member of the board and has contributed to several major changes made by the board over the past several years. For example, Bob was involved in defining a new WiscNet business model—one that does not depend on basing Internet access costs on increased bandwidth. This means that for the 95% of Wisconsin's libraries and 80% of its K-12 schools that are WiscNet members, they can increase their bandwidth to any level and will see *no increase* in their Internet costs. This is critical as bandwidth continues to increase at dramatic rates and our libraries and schools continue to operate under budget constraints. Another example of Bob's contribution was his work with WiscNet staff and the fellow board members as WiscNet underwent a major change in its governance and structure as a result of actions taken by the state legislature. These actions required WiscNet to separate itself from the University of Wisconsin and establish itself as a wholly autonomous not-for-profit organization. I simply mention these two examples to highlight Bob's expertise in managing change to the ultimate benefit of our 500 member institutions.

In conclusion, with his expertise on the E-rate program and his other skills and knowledge I am certain Bob will be a strong voice for libraries on the USAC Board of Directors and I am pleased to support his nomination by the American Library Association.

Sincerely,

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